considering to extend parity to OCIs with NRIs in all fields except those specified under Section 7(B) (1) of the Citizenship Act, 1955; (ii) Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC) lanuched in 2006 provides admission-cum-scholarships to children of overseas Indians in technical and higher educational institutions in India; and (iii) a policy framework for setting up a NRI-PIO University at a suitable place in the country, ensuring flexibility in the choice of disciplines and courses offered, has been approved by the Government.

(c) and (d) The above Schemes will meet the aspiration of the overseas Indians and also fulfill commitment made at the highest level to-overseas Indians. Engagement with Indian diaspora is mutually beneficial.

Fraud marriage bureaus

3879. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware of the fact that some fraud marriage bureaus are involved in fraudulent activities, as consequence of which innocent Indian women are victimized by some NRIs, after marrying them through these bureaus;

(b) if so, the action Ministry has taken to immediately stop these types of fraudulent activities;

(c) whether any cases against these bureaus have been registered; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (d) The Information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

Indians with dual citizenship

†3880. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the number of Indians provided dual citizenship by Government as on date with facilities provided to them so far;

(b) the names of countries where such Indians are still residing;

(c) the number of NRIs proposed to be provided dual citizenship in ensuing years; and

(d) by when all NRIs are likely to be provided dual citizenship?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) As on 7th May 2007, 1,23,310 persons of Indian origin (PIOs) have been granted Overseas Citizenships of India. Registered Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs) are entitled for the following benefits:

(i) Multiple entry, multi purpose life-long visa to visit India;

(ii) Exemption from reporting to Police authorities for any length of stay in India;

(iii) Parity with Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) in financial, economic and educational fields except in the acquisition of agricultural or plantation properties;

(iv) Parity with Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) in the matter of inter-country adoption of Indian children;

(v) Parity with resident Indian nationals in the matter of tariff in airfares in domestic sectors in India; and

(vi) Same entry fee as for domestic Indian visitors to visit national parks & wild life snactuaries in India.

(b) List is given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below)

(c) It is expected that around one lakh persons of Indian origin (PIOs) would be granted Overseas Citizenship of India every year in the ensuing years.

(d) All eligible PIOs can apply for Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) and will be granted OCI as and when they apply.

Statement

List of countries of residence of overseas Indians who have been issued with OCI documents

Sl.No.	Name of Country	Sl.No.	Name of Country
1	2	1	2
1.	Australia	22.	Ireland
2.	Bahrain	23.	Israel
3.	Bangladesh	24.	Italy
4.	Belgium	25.	Ivory Coast
5.	Botswana	26.	Jamaica
6.	Brazil	27.	Japan
7.	Canada	28.	Kazakhstan
8.	China	29.	Kenya
9.	Croatia	30.	Korea (South)
10.	Cyprus	31.	Kuwait
11.	Czech Republic	32.	Madagascar
12.	Brunei Dar-Us-Salam	33.	Mauritius
13.	Egypt	34.	Mexico
14.	Finland	35.	Nepal
15.	France	36.	Netherlands
16.	Germany	37.	New Zealand
17.	Ghana	38.	Nigeria
18.	Greece	39.	Oman
19.	Hungary	40.	Panama
20.	India	41.	Peru
21.	Indonesia	42.	Philippines

1	2	1	2
43.	Poland	55.	Sri Lanka
44.	Portugal	56.	Sudan
45.	Qatar	57.	Sweden
46.	Romania	58.	Switzerland
47.	Russia	59.	Tajikistan
48.	Saudi Arabia	60.	Thailand
49.	Senegal	61.	Trinidad & Tobago
50.	Seychelles	62.	UAE
51.	Singapore	63.	UK
52.	Slovakia	64.	USA
53.	South Africa	65.	Venezuela
54.	Spain		

Devolution Index for Panchayats

3881. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is proposing a scheme for Panchayats to get additional funds competing with each other; and

(b) what is the reported 'devolution index' constituted by the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Panchayat Empowerment and Accountability Incentive Scheme (PEAIS) is intended to incentivise State Governments to empower Panchayats and incentivise Panchayats to be transparent and accountable in their transactions. The PEAIS was operationalized during 2006-07 on the basis of a working Devolution Index prepared by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER). The more nuanced Devolution Index is being prepared by the NCAER which is likely to be completed by the end of 2007.